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CSCE PROGRESS REPORT: "BASKET THREE"
(FIRST OF TWO SCRIPTS)

ANNCR:

IN WASHINGTON, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HAS PREPARED A DETAILED STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION (CSCE), SIGNED NINE MONTHS AGO. VOA'S JOHN ALBERT HAS THE DETAILS IN THIS (FIRST OF TWO) REPORT(S).

VOICE:

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REPORT CONCERNS ITSELF EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE SO-CALLED "BASKET THREE" OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE PROVISIONS. THOSE PROVISIONS DEAL WITH THE FREER FLOW OF PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND IDEAS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. IT WAS THIS PART OF THE CONFERENCE WORK WHICH PROVED THE MOST DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING BECAUSE THE WESTERN AND NEUTRAL NATIONS INSISTED THAT WITHOUT FREER HUMAN CONTACTS THERE COULD BE NO IMPROVEMENT OF SECURITY IN EUROPE.

THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH ORIGINALLY SAW THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE MAINLY IN TERMS OF GAINING WESTERN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE STATUS QUO IN EUROPE, RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE. BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN EMPHASIS CONTINUED AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT AND, AS THE REPORT NOTES, IS REFLECTED IN THE PACE THAT CONCRETE AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

THERE IS A TENDENCY ON THE SOVIET SIDE, AS WELL AS IN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, TO GIVE THE BASKET THREE PROVISIONS LESS IMPORTANCE AND TO PLAY DOWN THE NEED FOR CHANGES. THIS IS CLEAR DISREGARD FOR THE BASIC GUIDELINE INSERTED ON WESTERN INSISTENCE INTO THE FINAL ACT, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"ALL THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE OF PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE AND, ACCORDINGLY, THEY WILL BE EQUALLY AND UNRESERVEDLY APPLIED, EACH OF THEM BEING INTERPRETED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OTHERS."

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REPORT COMES TO THE RELUCTANT CONCLUSION THAT ONLY MODEST RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. SOVIET CONCESSIONS ON FREER CONTACTS AND THE WIDER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, IT NOTES, HAVE BEEN LIMITED. NEVERTHELESS, THE REPORT SAYS, THE MOST PESSIMISTIC WESTERN EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN SURPASSED BY SOME STEPS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION.

AS TO EASTERN EUROPE, THE REPORT FINDS A GREATER READINESS TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF BASKET THREE. BUT HERE, TOO, SEVERE LIMITS ARE NOTED IN REGARD TO THE EXTENT THAT THOSE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DEPART FROM THE SOVIET POSITION.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS STUDY FINDS THAT THUS FAR CSCE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO REMOVE THE BARRIERS AND MUTUAL SUSPICIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SAYS, THE PRESSURE ON EACH GOVERNMENT IS SUCH THAT NONE CAN COMPLETELY IGNORE THE HELSINKI PLEDGES. "IT SEEMS LIKELY," THE REPORT OBSERVES, "THAT GIVEN CONTINUED INTEREST AND PRESSURE FROM THE WEST, THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE FINAL ACT WILL CONTINUE, IF ONLY HESITANTLY."

(OPT)IN WASHINGTON, BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE." ITS MEMBERS, CONSISTING OF SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, WOULD MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH HELSINKI WITHOUT

IN ANY WAY TRYING TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE COMMISSION WOULD PERFORM SOLELY AN INFORMATION GATHERING FUNCTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INFORMED ON THE RECORD OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI. (END OPT)

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